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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

RECEIVED

May 7, 2003

SEP - 2 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing regarding the proposed merger between the leading Spanish-language radio group Hispanic Broadcasting Corp., which is controlled by Clear Channel, and the leading Hispanic-TV network Univision. It is my understanding that the Commission is considering this proposed merger without giving Hispanic Americans the opportunity to voice their concerns in public hearings. I have deep reservations about the impact that this merger could have on the nation's Spanish-language radio market because it is my understanding that the merger would put 69% of all Hispanic media revenues under the control of one non-Hispanic individual.

Even absent this merger, Hispanic Americans are under-represented in the ownership of media outlets. Rather than considering whether to approve this merger, I believe the Commission's time would be better spent studying why this nation's largest minority has been unable to muster the capital to purchase media outlets. If this merger is approved, I am concerned that independent Hispanic-owned stations will be crushed by a monopoly controlled by a non-Hispanic who openly campaigned on behalf of California's anti-Hispanic Proposition 187.

As the Commission is working to complete a comprehensive review of its broadcast ownership rules, I am alarmed that the Commission is simultaneously considering allowing one individual who currently has near monopoly control of Spanish language broadcast television, cable television, internet portal access, publishing, concert promotion, television production, record production and outdoor advertising to also control the two largest Spanish language radio station companies.

Finally, it is my understanding that the Commission is handling this merger on circulation. While the process of circulating an item may be common for non-controversial mergers, this most controversial attempt to place 69% of all Spanish language media under the control of one non-Hispanic individual should be considered in public, at an open meeting so that the affected citizens - Hispanic Americans - are permitted to see their government's level of concern for and commitment to Hispanic ownership and preservation of Hispanic culture.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

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Sincerely,


Blanche L. Lincoln

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein